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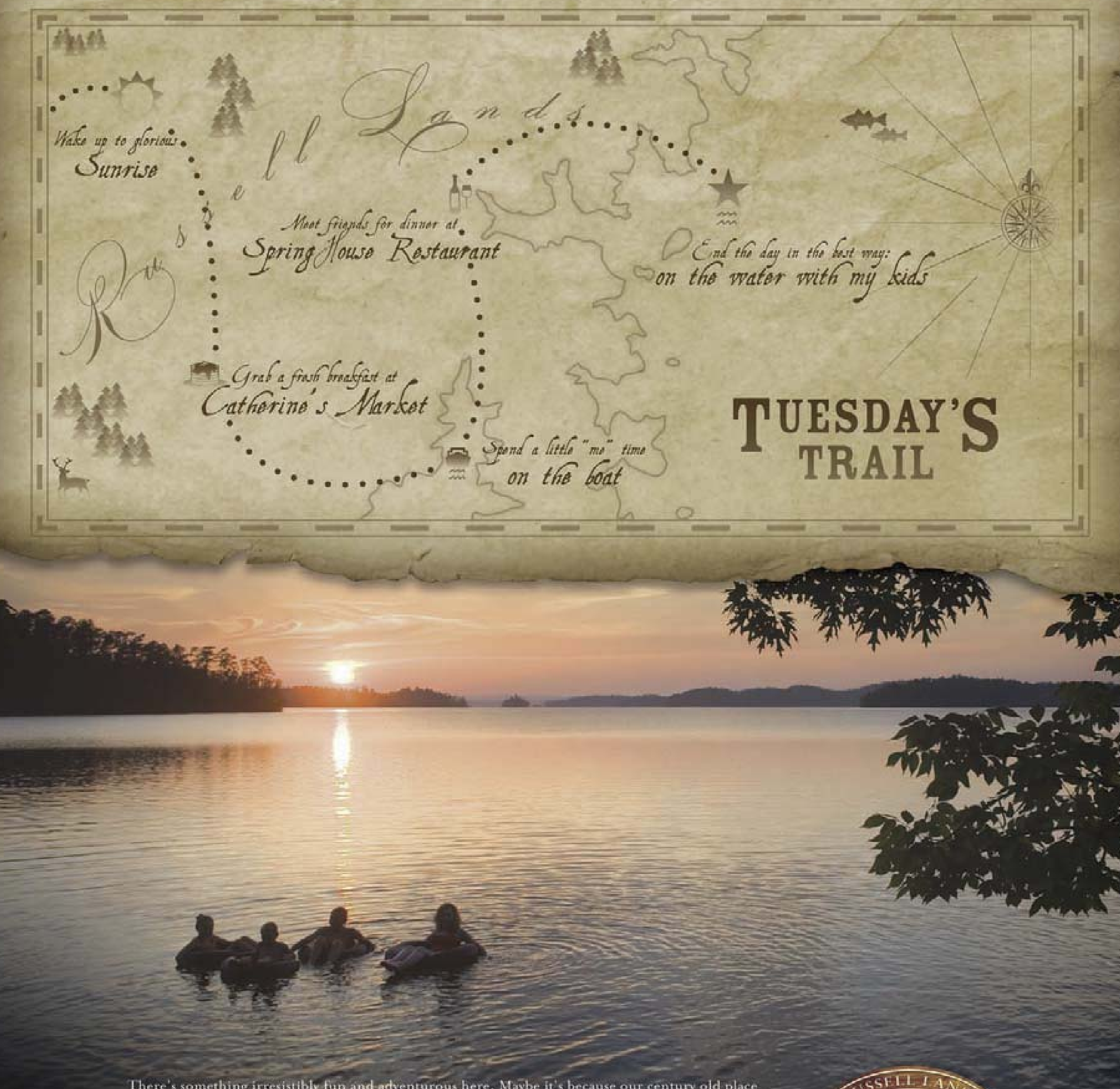

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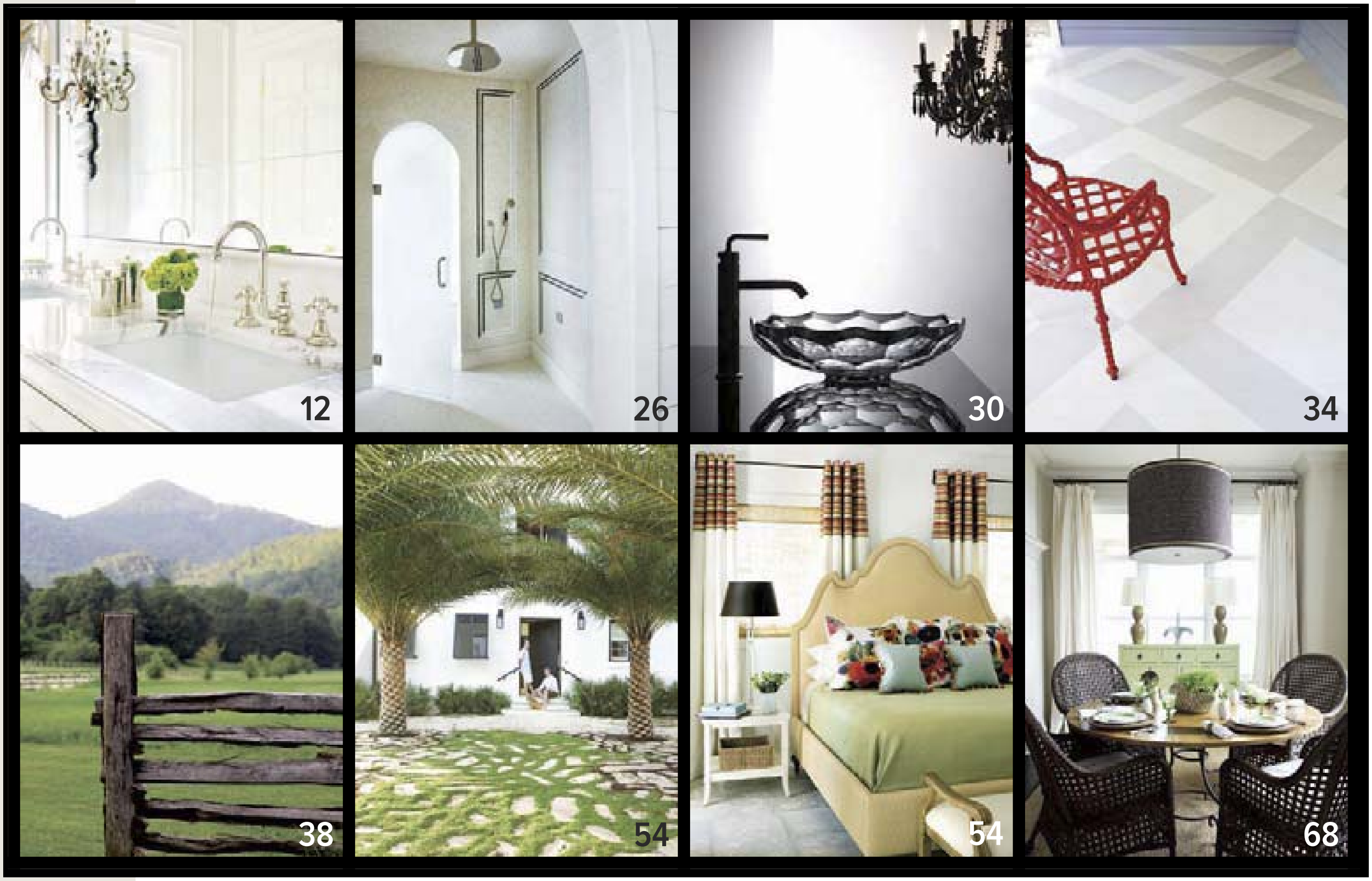

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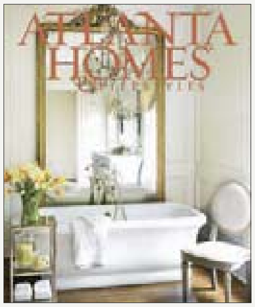
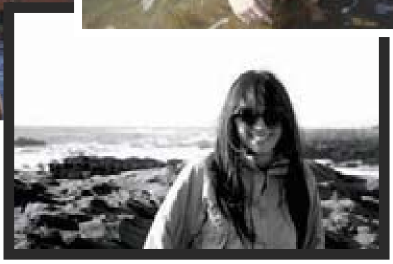


(on the cover)

Amy Morris designed this elegant bath, one of the winners of our 20th annual bath of the year contest. Photographed by Steve Pomberg on May 4, 2009.

Summer of Style

Whether you're planning to hit the road this month in search of R&R, or are planning to stay close to home, everyone at Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles *wishes you a safe, joyous summer. Here's to making the most of every minute—in style.*



Clockwise from top left: me, in Iceland, 2008. Account Executive Michele Musgrove and her husband, Marc, along the Amalfi Coast. Sales & Editorial Assistant Sejal Bhima and her friend, Divya Patel, in Rome. Advertising Art Director Elizabeth Anderson with her son, Slade, at Tybee Island. Art Director Rachel Cardina, along California's Highway 1. Account Executive Miriam Wagner-Griffin at The Atlantis in The Bahamas. Assistant Editor Kate Abney in San Francisco in March. Senior Account Executive Debbie Brown and her husband, Clarke, in St. Barths. Publisher Gina Christman in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence.

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On location in Florida for the feature that starts on page 54

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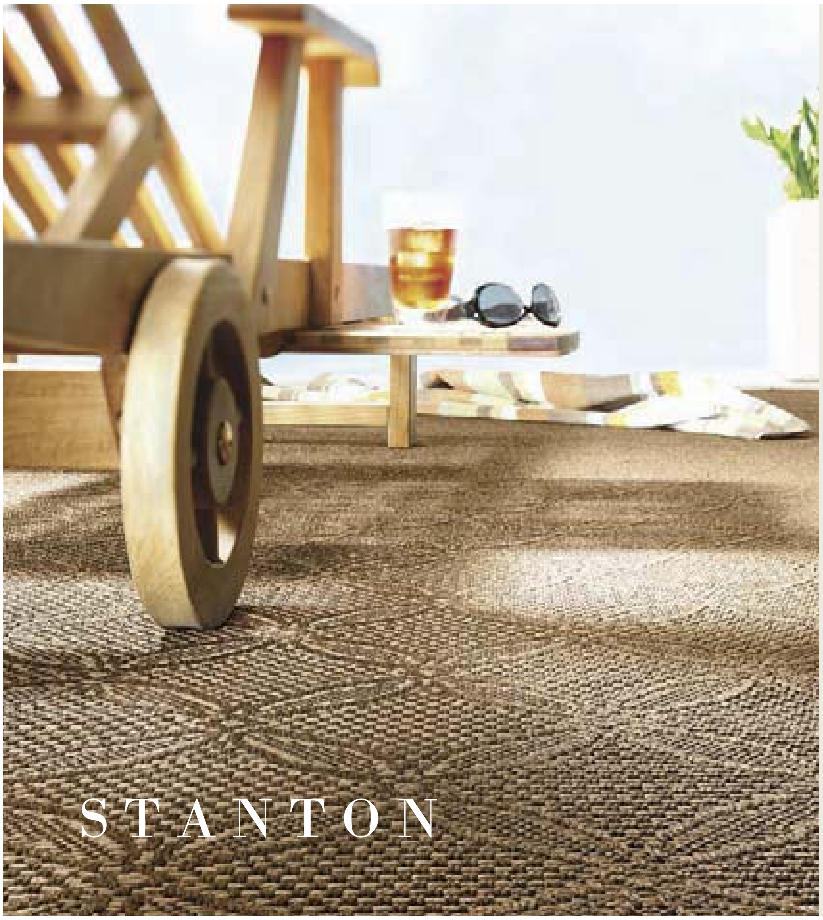

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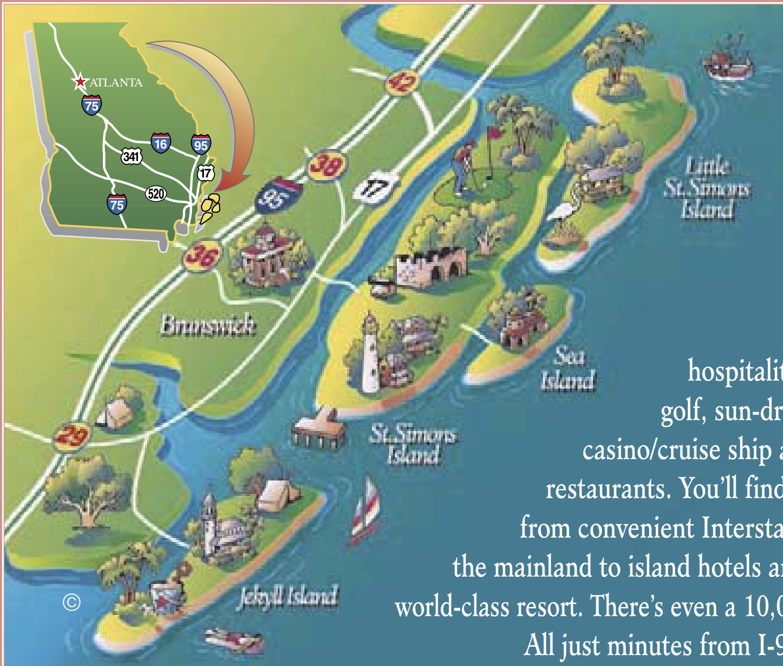

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WRITTEN BY
KATE ABNEY

bath of the year 2009 winners

For the past 20 years, *Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles* has been celebrating the best baths in the city with our annual Bath Contest issue, which always brings in a slew of dazzling entries. And this year, amid the flurry of more entries than ever, our expert judges picked three favorites that made the most of the modern bathroom, with magnificent design innovations and chic decorative elements—from graphic tile and personal touches to antique finds and crystal chandeliers that glimmer in the sun. Diverse, complex and elegant, each reflects the different design directions Atlantans love: contemporary conveniences coupled with a never-failing reverence for classical principles. Most importantly, sound architecture, executed with practicality and propriety, simplifies these spaces (all three were renovations), to create baths that are soothing places to retreat, whether for a morning ritual or to unwind at the end of the day. More than ever, we see our city's baths presenting good design without compromise; each winner exudes enduring quality and timeless design that will serve its homeowners for years to come.

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WRITTEN BY
KATE ABNEY

PHOTOGRAPHED BY
CHRIS LITTLE

Traditional REDUX

Designer Shon Parker gives a longtime client a masterful retreat that heeds historical precedent while forging forward with modern innovations, tactile details and artful accents

20TH ANNUAL BATH CONTEST **GRAND PRIZE WINNER**

The owner of this 1920's Arts and Crafts-style bungalow was looking for the coziness of traditional design, but at the same time wanted fresh style, too. Enter Shon Parker, who deftly mixed different eras in this winsome master retreat.

"Before, the bathroom was dark and cave-like, with no windows," says the designer. "We wanted to keep the house in the same rich architectural style of the neighborhood, but update it to fit today's new look."

Undertaking a massive renovation, Parker and his team first tore off the top floor of the house, in the process creating a cathedral ceiling. The new height allowed them to install quaint cottage windows at each end of the room, maintaining privacy while letting in just enough natural light. And, while the paneling was initially installed on just one wall, Parker soon decided that he loved the look of it wrapped around the entire room.

"Painted in a muted, quiet tone, it feels really old-school," he says. "It has a warmer and more sophisticated look than an all-tile bathroom." But the wall covering is more than a striking façade. Ingeniously camouflaged within the wood paneling is storage that discretely holds towels and other bath-time essentials.

"The homeowner indulges in bath rituals daily," explains the designer, "so it was essential that bathing be the focal point of the space." To that end, Parker also added a quartz ledge behind the soaking tub, providing a place for everything from shampoo bottles to artistic touches.

A floating glass shower is all but invisible, letting the room's new architectural assets shine through. And the vanity, located directly across from a newly expanded closet, streamlines the process of getting ready.

The designer knew that the crystal chandelier would be perfect in the bathroom, adding glamour as light streaming through the windows dances off each prism. And nearby, an 18th-century chair takes on a sculptural quality, mingling with the nature-inspired tusk table and wall-mounted antlers.

"When [the owner] lights the candles and dims the chandelier, the shadows play off the antlers and the room takes on a whole new feeling, of a time when candles were the only source of light," says Parker. "It's soothing."

RESOURCES VANITY FIXTURES Kohler CABINETRY Custom through Shon Parker Design Inc. TUB FAUCET Kallista ART Lumiere Gallery TUSK TABLE Baker Furniture ALL OTHER RESOURCES Shon Parker Design Inc.

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Crowning JEWEL

A discriminating homeowner is given the bath of her dreams at the hands of designer Amy Morris, who reflected her sophisticated style in the form of an elegant and efficient sanctuary

BATH CONTEST 2009 **WINNER**

THE GOAL IN THIS ELEGANT BATHROOM was straightforward: The man of the house wanted to give his wife the one of her dreams. "She is known for her very sophisticated style," notes designer Amy Morris. "She dresses very cleanly and simply, adorned in beautiful jewels, handbags and shoes."

Ousting the abundance of dark green marble and a choppy layout, Morris and her team first switched up the floorplan, taking their inspiration from the owner's immaculate form of dress and creating a cleaner look. "From the beginning, I knew I wanted to find a mirror and chandelier; I'm just lucky that I found the perfect ones. We were out looking for lighting at Foxglove Antiques, and we saw it," notes Morris of the 19th-century French mirror. "I said, 'That's it. *That*'s the one.'" Meanwhile, the show-stopping amethyst-embellished French chandelier and crystal sconces were discovered at Edgar-Reeves. In this well-lighted bathroom, they sparkle like fine jewelry.

Gleaming nickel "Etoile" fixtures and hardware from Waterworks were must-haves from the beginning, as was the six-foot "Empire" tub, a stunning focal point in front of the towering palace mirror. A large, glass-encased shower—the husband's sole request—features groutless slabs of Calcutta Borghini marble and a rain showerhead for the ultimate in luxury. But all of the glitz and glam is softened by silk window treatments and wood-paneled walls painted a unique gray-green, reflecting the homeowners' love for the verdant hue. Beneath it all, wood floors, extended from the master living area, provide an undeniable warmth and elegance that will serve the couple well for years to come.

In keeping with the bath's high style, Morris also designed a custom vanity, streamlined dressing table and an armoire in her client's closet. With drawers deep enough to house bottles and other necessities without having them topple over, the dressing table makes getting ready that much easier while the armoire keeps the owner's collections of shoes and handbags organized without a hitch.

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markwilliams-design.com

CONTRACTOR
Steve Garret
(770) 653-4122

Modern MOSAIC

Graphic touches and well-placed angles establish a bold and high-performing bathroom with sleek style, modern conveniences and ample storage space

BATH CONTEST 2009 **WINNER**

ALTHOUGH IT'S HARD TO DISCERN from its current chic state, the master bathroom in this traditional '80s-era home formerly featured an extremely outdated layout. Dated countertops, a garden-style tub—as well as a wasteful use of space—made homeowners Larry Hoskins and Jim Wildermuth feel cramped in their quarters. But a renovation at the hands of Mark Williams—who began the project while part of his former firm, Laslie-Williams Inc.—transformed the space with his new team at Mark Williams Design Associates.

Clean, architectural angles were just the thing to take this modern update to its greatest heights. "The rectangular soffit built over the sinks brought in a totally different dimension and broke up the angularity of the wall," Hoskins says. Meanwhile, a spacious shower—in a scale large enough to require no door—features two showerheads and a partial glass enclosure. Nearby, a Duravit soaking tub provides the ultimate, indulgent luxury. Making the most of integration, the tub deck extends into the shower, where it serves as a convenient bench. Meanwhile, a tower of glass mosaic tile—looking as brilliant as an art piece—forms niches for toiletries and shower controls on the other side.

Working with project manager Niki Papadopoulos, Williams' team created custom cabinetry in rich, dark brown mahogany for a strong, masculine style, but designed the vanity to have a floating appearance to lighten the look. In contrast with the sandy-colored limestone countertops and floors, the furniture-like piece takes center stage, its aesthetics almost upstaging its high functionality.

Adding polish to this bath are sleek hardware, modern lighting and a final, personal touch: Williams gave the homeowners, avid orchid cultivators, a custom trough where they can saturate their prized plants fully and let them bask in the sunlight.

"It was a space the couple liked least but had to use the most," says Williams. "With a simple reorientation of space, it is now their favorite."

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ROBERT BROWN, ALLIED ASID

A graduate of the University of Georgia and a 20-year veteran of the fashion industry, Robert Brown, who has worked in interior design for eight years, launched his eponymous design firm in 2005. He has since gone on to win dozens of prestigious design awards, including more than 20 ASID Design in Excellence awards. Brown has designed private residences, show houses, historic homes, country clubs and commercial interiors across the country, from Florida to Washington. He currently serves on the Atlanta board for DIFFA and has previously co-chaired the organization's Dining by Design gala. Brown, whose work has been published in a number of regional and national design publications, recently announced the launch of a furniture collection for Holland & Company.

SIMONE FELDMAN, CKD, CBD

The owner and operator of her own residential design/build firm for more than 25 years, Simone Feldman studied at the School of Architecture & Arts in Rio de Janeiro before earning her Certified Kitchen Designer (CKD) accreditation in 1993 and her Certified Bath Designer (CBD) status in 1995. At Simone Feldman Designs, LLC, she has developed strong relationships with her clients, forged by her ability to stay within a home's architectural parameters and the clients' budget. Feldman's work has been published in a number of regional and national design publications.

JOEL KELLY

After graduating in 1991 with a degree in architecture from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Joel Kelly went on to earn a master's degree in architecture from Princeton University in 1993. Three years later, he launched his own practice, Joel Kelly Design. Kelly's highly successful residential and interior design practice continues to be recognized, awarded and published in the local and national press.

GEORGIA TANAJEWSKI, CKD

A native Atlantan and principal of design firm one1one Studio, Georgia Tanajewski majored in art and minored in business at the American College for Applied Arts before achieving Certified Kitchen Designer (CKD) status in 1996. After spending some time in northern California, she returned to Georgia and in 2007 opened the firm one1one Studio, which combines Atlanta style with the simplicity and ease of California living. Tanajewski is an executive board member for the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA), a member of the Westye Independent Design Forum (WIDF) and an active participant with the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI).

KITCHEN + BATH NEWS

Elegant Additions plumbing and hardware has come to Atlanta. Its field rep, Kristy Pollock, is introducing the design community to the company's exciting product mix until the perfect showroom location is found. *(678) 200-4952; elegantadditions.net*

Three Italian cabinetry lines have debuted in Atlanta. ***SCIC Atlanta*** has opened a showroom in the Viewpoint building on Peachtree Street at 6th Street. Not only is the company's signature cabinetry showcased but furniture and art are also for sale. *855 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta 30308, (404) 975-4320; scicatlanta.com.* Another line, ***Berloni***, is now on display at Fusion Design Group at 800 Miami Circle. *(404) 264-1321.* And ***Scavolini*** Italian cabinetry is also now available in Atlanta. The collection is on display at Luxury Kitchens & Baths on Mansell Road in Roswell. *1017 Mansell Rd., Roswell 30076, (678) 352-8585; lkbausa.com*

Bella Custom Kitchens has moved from Dunwoody Village to a new showroom on Ashford Dunwoody Road. The new showroom has multiple vignettes. *4828 Ashford Dunwoody Rd., Suite 100, Atlanta 30338, (770) 395-0060; bellakitchens.net*

MTI Whirlpools expands its Boutique Collection with the unveiling of new solid-surface tubs and sinks designed by Matthew Quinn. It marks a collaborative effort between two dynamic forces—the talent of a local Atlanta designer and the expertise of an award-winning manufacturer. As a result, the tubs and sinks exude luxury and sophistication while elevating the MTI customization concept. *670 North Price Rd., Sugar Hill 30518, (800) 783-8827; mtiwhirlpools.com*

Kitchen & Bath Concepts has completely remodeled its showroom on Alpharetta Highway in Roswell, where it showcases many styles, from contemporary to traditional. *11444 Alpharetta Hwy., Roswell 30076, (770) 442-9845; kitchenandbathconcepts.com*

New to the kitchen and bath industry, ***Grab Bars and More Inc.*** specializes in home adaptations for special needs clients. In addition to grab bars, the company offers plumbing installations that include water filtration systems and tankless water heaters. *(770) 329-5888; grabbarsinstalled.net*

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STYLE

(baths)

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY
SEJAL BHIMA

20TH ANNUAL BATH ISSUE
SPOTLIGHT ON BATHS

(web)

DISCOVER NEW LOCAL SHOPS & SHOWROOMS AT ATLANTAHOMESMAG.COM

Splish SPLASH!

Whether it's a powder room or a master sanctuary, a beautiful bath is all about the details. So after sifting through more than 50 submissions from our 2009 Bath Contest—and revisiting a few of our features from the past year—we turned the spotlight on some favorites. Here, we take an up-close look at elements that can take a lavatory to the next level

Creative installation can give even the most simplistic spaces major depth and dimension. This limestone tile, set in a classic herringbone pattern, runs behind the vanity, across the floor and up the shower wall on the opposite side of the room, providing a striking backdrop for the bathroom's minimalist fixtures and accessories. Beth Kooby Design, (404) 831-4560

Warm woods can beautifully balance the cool tones that often come with natural stone. Dark South American Ipei wood, milled into custom horizontal bands, complements the light neutrals in this bath, including sparkling chrome fixtures and expanses of Venetino marble. TERRACOTTA PROPERTIES LLC, (404) 377-0906; TERRACOTTAPROP.COM

Designing a child's bath doesn't have to involve dinosaurs or pink ponies. Case in point: This charming girl's bathroom at the home of Bonneau and Jennifer Ansley was inspired by the playful yet sophisticated floral fabric. An inviting window seat—with storage below—gives the young occupant a place to stash bath toys now; later, it will hold just as much appeal, providing the perfect place to sit down to slip on a pair of heels. GWYN DUGGAN DESIGN ASSOCIATES, (912) 341-0440

There's no need to leave a windowless powder room in the dark. If installing a skylight isn't an option, color is key. Buttery yellow subway tiles give this small space a sunny disposition. The shallow display niche cleverly maximizes the space that a protruding shelf would have eaten up. The Haralson Group, (404) 320-0481; haralsongroup.com

BETH KOOBY BATH IMAGE BY ASHLEY WALDRON HOPE; TERRACOTTA PROPERTIES IMAGE BY AMY HERR; GWYN DUGGAN BATH IMAGE BY ERICA GEORGE DINES

The most intriguing designs are often the result of unexpected touches. Mosaic tiles in the spacious shower create the illusion of three-dimensional architectural details. Meanwhile, rectangular leather tiles mounted on the walls of this bathroom exude an appropriately clean look, especially against the room's dark cabinetry. Summerour Interiors, (404) 603-8585; summerour.net

A harmonious union of contemporary and traditional styles all but guarantees a truly timeless space. In this case, a chic travertine bowl sink is set upon a classic cherry vanity while the modern stand-up shower is framed by traditional white molding. Even the grand gilt-frame mirror is right at home between a pair of more clean-lined sconces. ROBERT BROWN INTERIOR DESIGN, (404) 917-1333; ROBERTBROWNINTERIORDESIGN.COM

Nothing is more pleasing to the architecturally purist eye than clean lines. To that end, flush-mounted cabinets, sleek hardware and a flawlessly finished limestone countertop add up to a simple and seamless aesthetic. To keep the space from looking institutional, glass tile in a rust hue provides a subtle touch of color against the demure palate. MARK WILLIAMS DESIGN ASSOCIATES, (678) 539-6886; MARKWILLIAMS-DESIGN.COM

The ultimate fixture can simultaneously provide flair and functionality. This elongated sink adds a dramatic punch to the powder room, while effortlessly blending in with the classic style of the period home. A unique mirror treatment—set into the bathroom's original wood paneling—looks artful and reflects the impression of a larger room, while the dark finish of the sink's underside echoes the color of the wood floor. Home Rebuilders, (404) 876-3000; homerebuilders.com

SUMMEROUR INTERIORS AND ROBERT BROWN INTERIOR DESIGN BATH IMAGES BY ERICA GEORGE DINES; HOME REBUILDERS IMAGE BY JOHN UMBERGER OF REAL IMAGES

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(video special)

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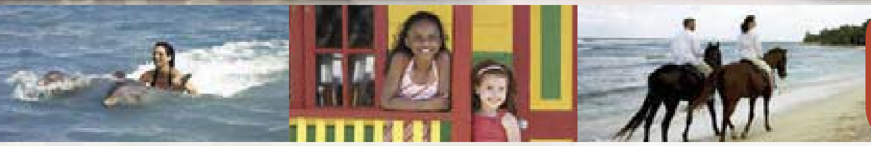

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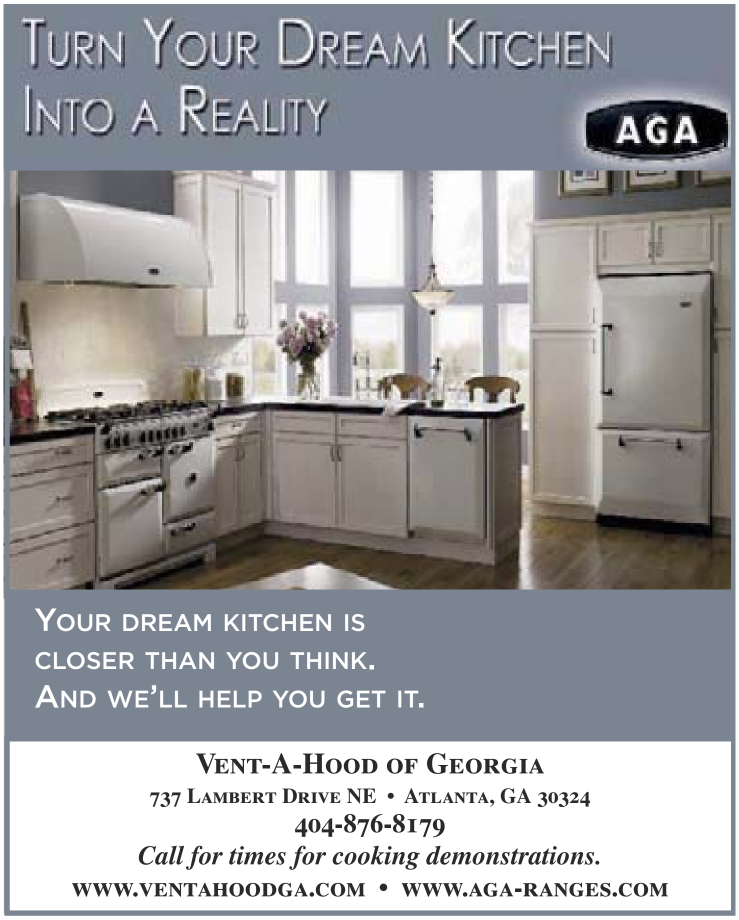
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STYLE

(news)

INTERVIEW BY
KATE ABNEY

PHOTOGRAPHED BY
ERICA GEORGE DINES

PRODUCED BY
CLINTON SMITH

Paint PANACHE

[illegible]

AH&L: This is such a chic floor! How did you come up with this design motif?

BYRON BLAKE: We wanted to do something that had a formal look to it, but take it out of a more traditional setting and transpose it to an outdoor deck. I decided on this classic, Billy Baldwin-type design. It's very Hollywood Glamour … and the two shades of gray make it unexpected. Most people would have chosen to do it in very graphic black-and-white, but we wanted to tone it down, knowing that it would be a backdrop for the furnishings and the quiet outdoor scenery.

I can see the Billy Baldwin influence here, but there's something more modern about your designs, too. Where else do you get inspiration?

I use David Hicks a lot, and lately I've been getting a lot of ideas from different wallpaper companies. What I'm looking into now is blowing up different wallpaper motifs—like florals—to a super-sized scale. But my inspiration comes from everywhere. I tear out pages from magazines, use fabric samples and tile, and great, classic designs that I play with to create something different.

Do you ever have designs just come to you? Do you ever wake up from a dream and have to sketch something out?

Continuously. Sometimes I'll see something on TV and sketch it out really quickly because, knowing me, I'll forget it if I don't. For this reason, I have a sketchbook in nearly every room of my home, even the kitchen. Even though I won't use the exact design, it often leads to something else that I can apply creatively to another idea. It's a starting point.

And paint is such a practical alternative design solution!

Exactly. I think paint is one of the easiest, most inexpensive ways to change your home. A lot of people don't have $30,000 to renovate a room, but they do have $2,000 to do a really spectacular facelift with paint. It's also kind of a mental thing for me. It brightens your disposition to have things looking fresh, clean and new. You react to rooms differently; you feel better in them.

Do you have any tried-and-true colors that you just can't live without?

I'm addicted to the Benjamin Moore collections for Pottery Barn, and lately I've been going back to Ralph Lauren colors. Their Candlelight line is great. I'm using one of the Candlelight shades in a client's home right now.

You seem to specialize in digging people out of a neutral niche and getting them to experiment with color. How do you convince them to come around to your corner?

I try to talk to my clients and find out how they feel. You can't just force a color on somebody; a drastic color change can be shocking. I see how they feel about a color, and how well that fits with the other elements in their life. I present a few of my favorite shades to them, and we narrow down from there. I always have one that I know is the best choice and, thankfully, they usually come around to it. I spend so much time with my clients—talking to them about their lives and their homes—that we become like family!

How do you get your designs to come out so flawlessly?

In this case, I used the architecture than Jason and Katie

ON THE PAINTED FLOOR DESIGNED BY BYRON BLAKE, VENEMAN COLLECTION'S ST. GERMAIN ARM CHAIR BY ROGER THOMAS. AVAILABLE THROUGH LOGAN GARDENS, ADAC, (404) 231-4808.

(web)
LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION? LOTS OF COLORFUL IDEAS AT ATLANTAHOMESMAG.COM

Isogna, of Rubicon Construction, built for us. I lined up my diagonals by centering each point in the middle of the five-inch beams. It's important to use existing architecture to inform scale; it all kind of weighs together, so it looks right. I'm a perfectionist, which is probably why my business is still a one-man operation—which most of my clients like. I select colors that coordinate with everything in the home, not just one room. It has to flow. There's so much more to it than just saying, 'Oh, I want a red dining room.' I like to find colors that mesh, on both the interior and the exterior.

What special techniques do you use to give your floors such a professional look?

It's very time-consuming because, with a floor, you've got to roll it and leave the room. You can't walk on it for 24 hours, so it's one coat per day. I start by sanding and applying two coats of primer, then three coats of the lightest color and three more of the darker color. I get clean lines by measuring everything and masking it off in accordance with the architecture of the room. Thinking about which side gets painted and which side doesn't gets confusing halfway in, because you've got blue tape over half the floor and it can look like a big ol' mess. But once it's taped off, that's the easy part—you just roll over it three times and go.

I love the subtlety of this design. Do you ever paint anything more elaborate on floors?

Not really. I don't want the floor to overpower the rest of the room. I know it's going to be walked on and, if it's too precious, people are going to feel weird on it. I want the dog to be able to lie on it. I want furniture to be scooted around on it. If it's too elaborate, then my clients are going to feel strange walking on it.

It's an exquisitely simple look, but how do you keep it looking fresh over time?

Where you walk the most, it will start to wear away. I think this particular floor is still a little too perfect. I'm almost ready for the edges to fray a bit, and they will eventually. To protect the floors, I always use three coats of varnish, and brush each plank individually by hand; it's very time-consuming. If you roll it, you get little bubbles underneath the surface. It takes about a week to do a standard-size room; that's why it costs what it does for this treatment, because it's a solid week of back and forth [labor]. And that's after we've chosen the design, chosen the paint colors and worked out all of the other details. For upkeep, I recommend re-varnishing every year to a year and a half, just to be safe.

DESIGN DETAILS

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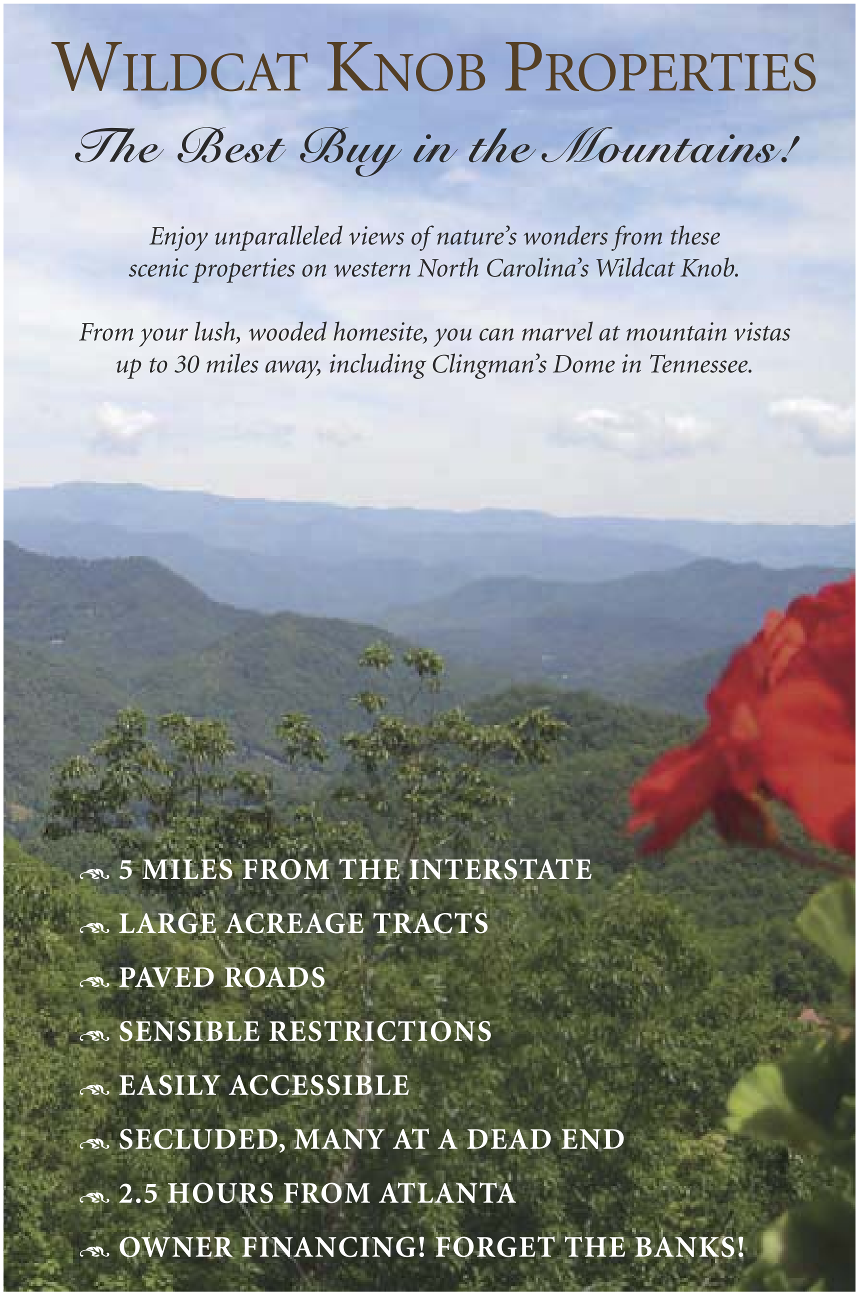

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LIFE

(food)

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(peaches)

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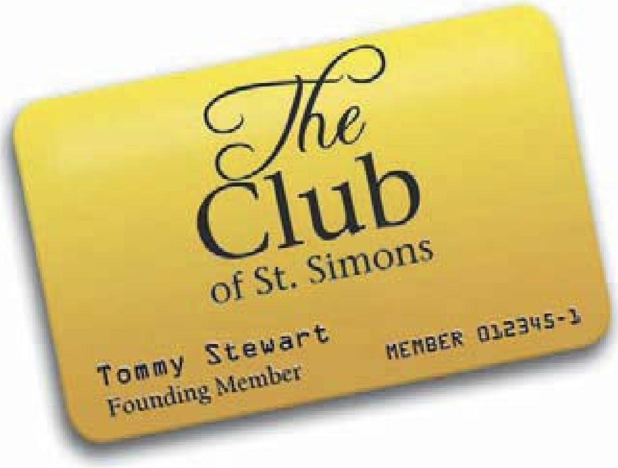

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LIFE

(travel)

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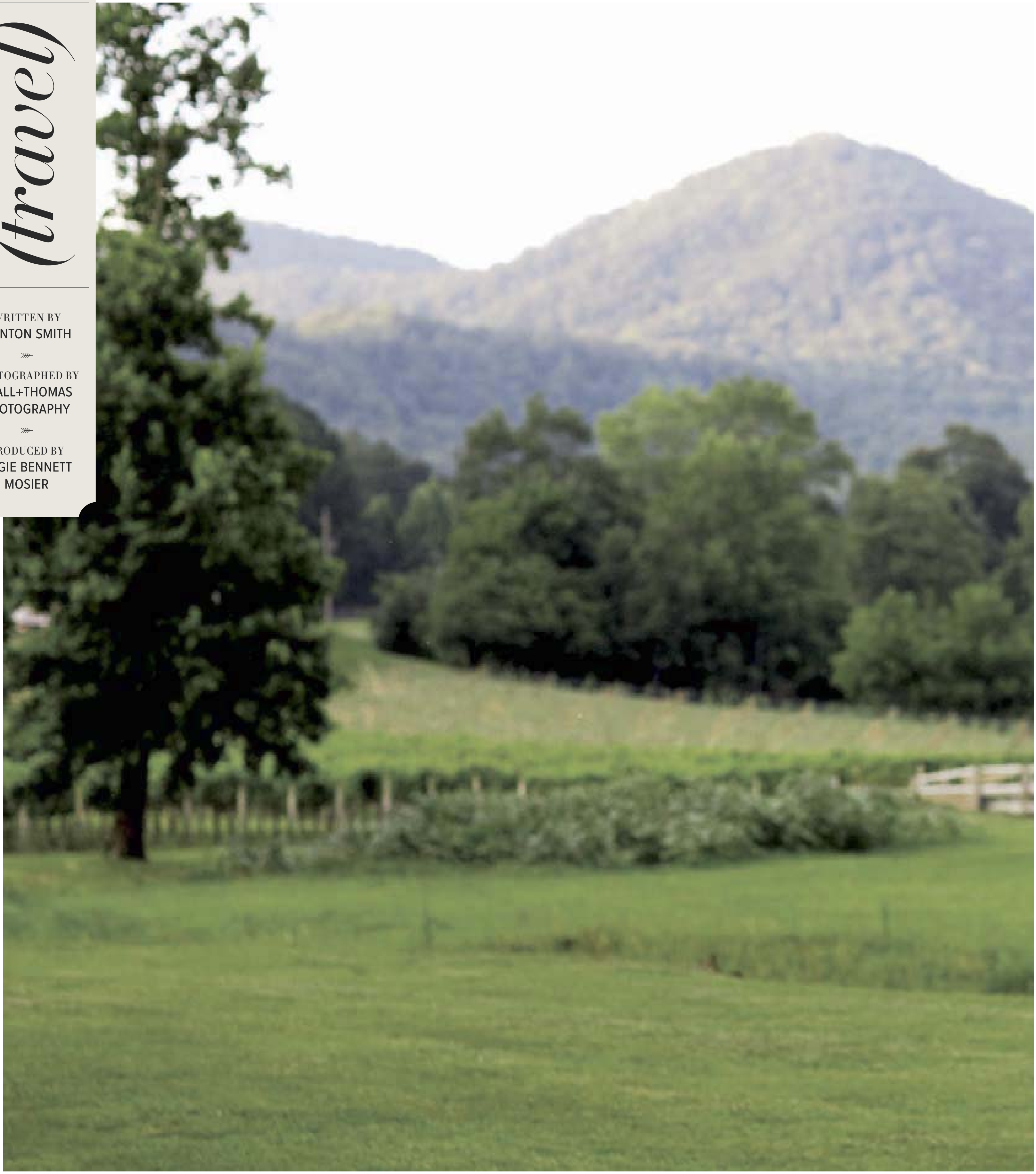
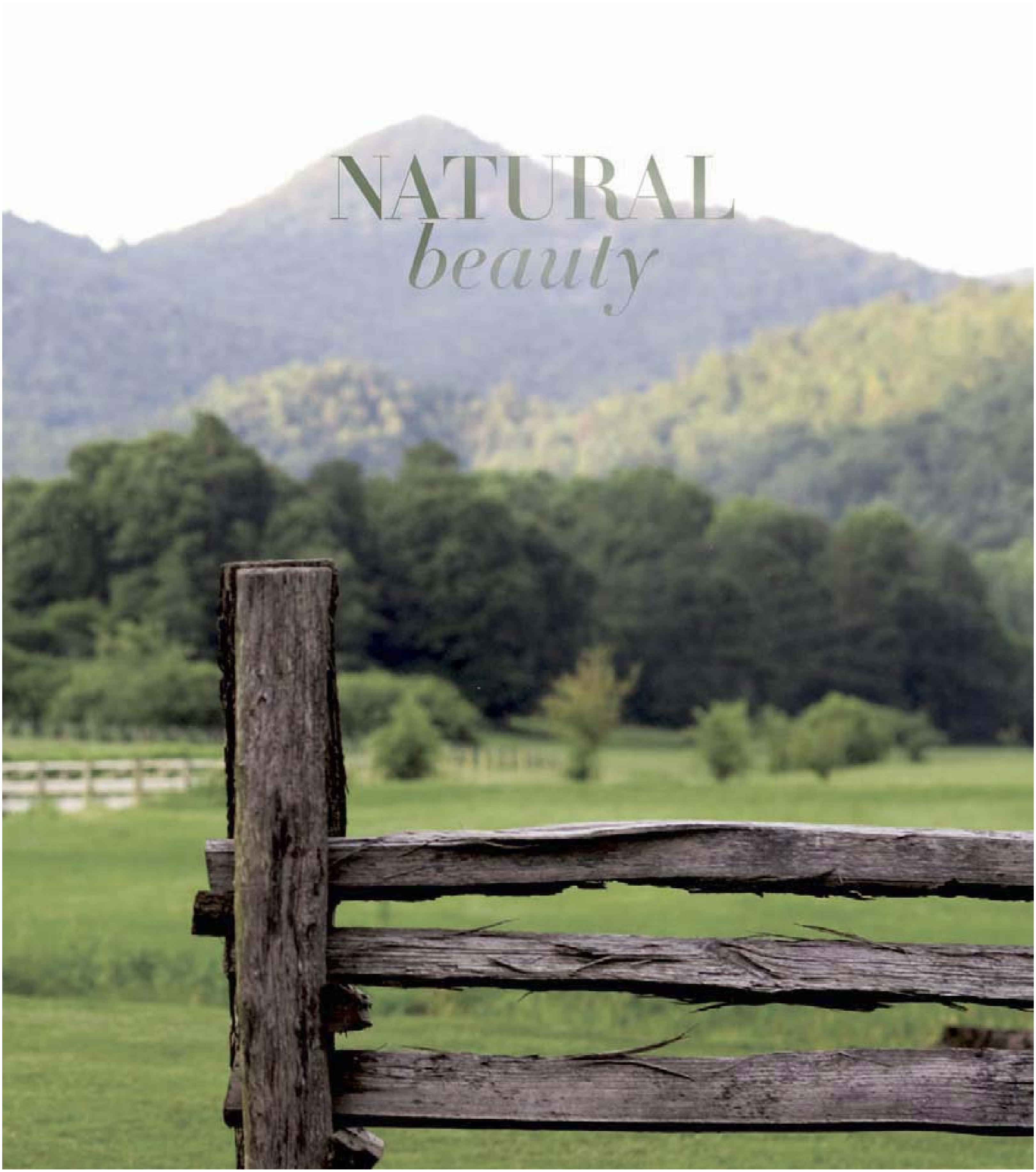
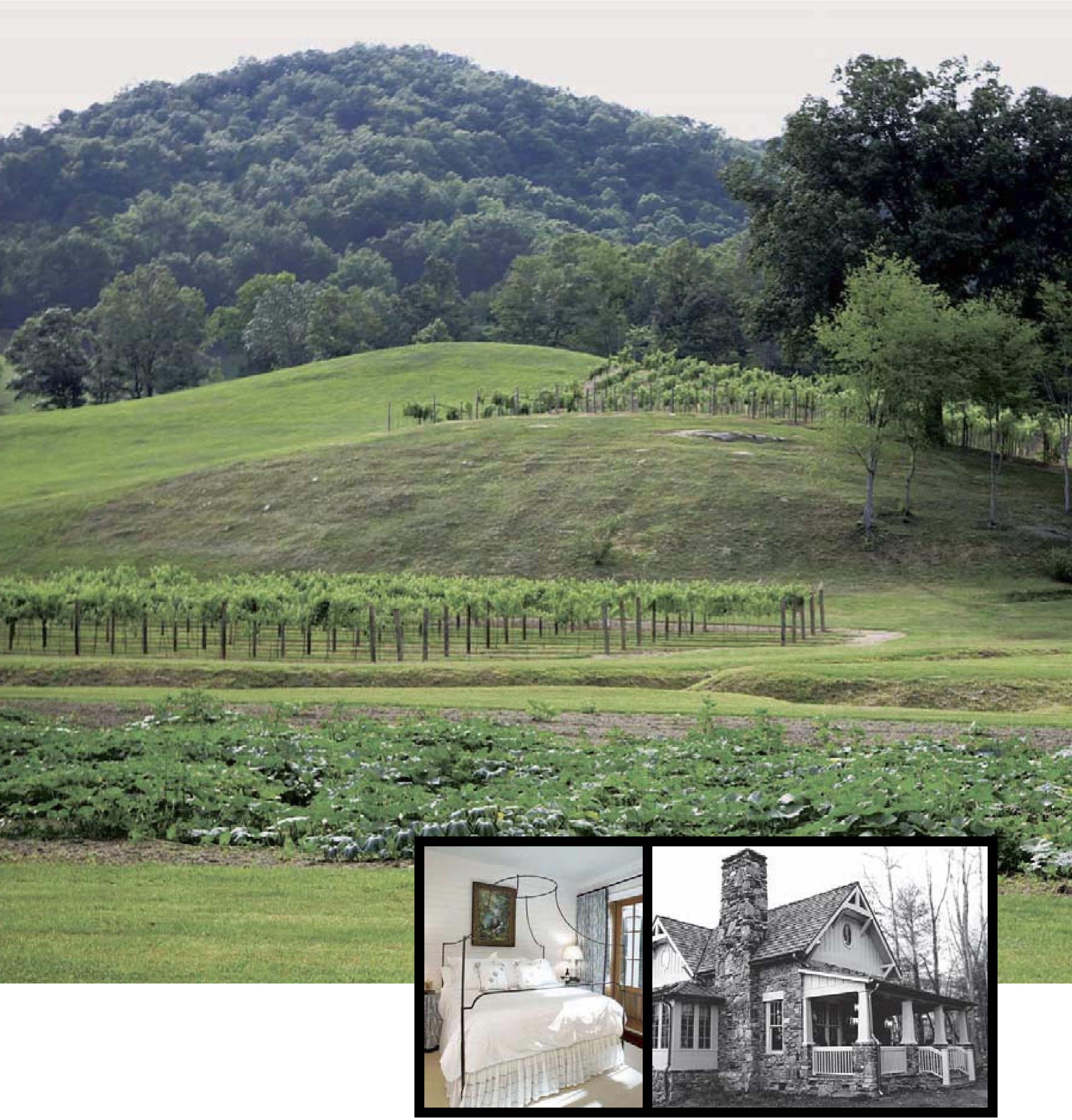
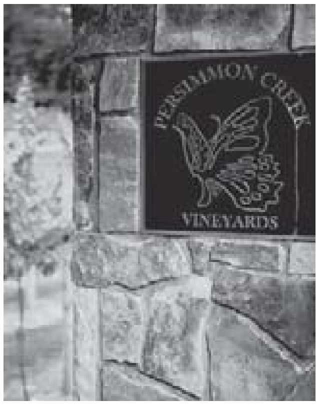


NATURAL *beauty*







IT'S HARD TO COMPETE WITH THE ROMANTIC COUNTRY VISTAS AT PERSIMMON CREEK VINEYARDS, BUT THE RECENT ADDITION OF THREE CHARMING COTTAGES ON THE PROPERTY HAVE UPPED THE ANTE

For a decade, Mary Ann and William "Sonny" Hardman's Rieslings, Seyval Blancs, Cabernet Francs and Merlots have wowed Atlantans. The wines from their Rabun County estate, Persimmon Creek Vineyards, have long graced the menus of the region's top restaurants, including Bacchanalia, Restaurant Eugene and The Cloister at Sea Island. But these days, there are exciting new things emanating from the bucolic North Georgia hills.

With the introduction of three new luxury cottages, guests can now stay right on the grounds of the 110-acre property, enjoying hiking and winery tours. Named for vegetation found in the area, the fully appointed one- and two-bedroom cottages—Hickory, Fiddlehead and Sassafras—were inspired by the philosophy of 19th-century landscaper A.J. Downing of creating a home that has a "taste of the place, a *gout de terroir*."

"Like bottles of wine, each of the three cottages has a distinctive personality," says architect Tim Adams of T.S. Adams Studio, who designed the cottages. Assisting him on the project was a dream team of Atlanta talent, including Pineapple House Interior Design, led by Stephen W. Pararo, and legendary landscape designer Ryan Gainey.

"The design connects the natural environment with the indoors," says Adams. "It is closely tied with Mary Ann and Sonny's values for Persimmon Creek Vineyards." *(706) 212-7972; persimmoncreekwine.com*

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY
LORI JOHNSTON

Left: The interior of a new home built by Guyton Design Homes; guytondesign-homes.com. Below: A recently completed renovation project by Edward Holifield; edwardholifieldbydesign.com

Hands ON

Two well-known design professionals are creating houses from the inside out

(web)

Hundreds of homes are for sale at atlantahomesmag.com

For three decades, designer Kathy Guyton has perfected the interiors of homes, assembling the right colors and fabrics, furniture and lighting to perfectly please her clients. Her work has been featured in regional and national magazines, drawing accolades from far and near.

Still, she admits, it all eventually became too familiar. There was, more and more, a sameness to her projects. "I got a little tired of how many shades of blue are out there and invariably going back to the first shade of blue I showed [a client]."

Specifically, Guyton grew frustrated by homes with wasted space, those with little thought given to furniture placement. She sought the freedom to design from the inside out. So Guyton downsized her design business, which had offices in Sea Island and Atlanta, to start a new venture. Teaming up with her son, who has building experience, and her nephew—an architect—she created Guyton Design Homes, a company that focuses on new housing as well as remodeling both primary and second homes.

"My primary goal in design was for houses to work for people the way they lived," Guyton says. "I think the three of us have an amazing amount to give to someone who wants to build a house."

Currently, the company has two $1.795-million homes for sale on Arden Road, two remodel projects in Cashiers, North Carolina, and a custom home going up in the Peachtree Battle area. Granted, the pace of their new construction is slower than when the company launched; the first six houses were sold before they were out of the ground.

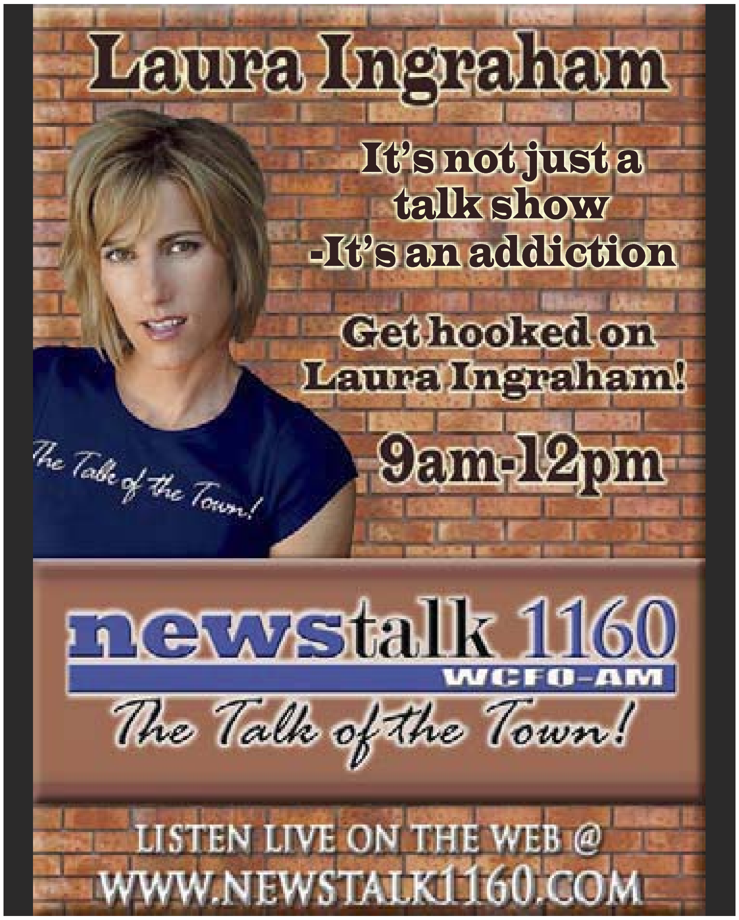
"We're just trying to be careful in this economy," Guyton says, adding that they're thinking of building smaller spec homes in the much-sought-after Morris Brandon Elementary School district. The company's concept is much like that of another designer; Edward Holifield has taken the same tack with his business, Edward Holifield by Design. He, too, believes clients working with a firm that can provide the design, construction and interiors can reap financial benefits. His projects cover a wide range of budgets, from $10,000 for a simple bathroom redo to $300,000 for a complete home remodel.

"Anytime you can minimize the number of hands in the fire, versus hands in your pocket, it's advantageous," Holifield says. "I often think I undersell myself because I am cutting several people out of the process, but I'm not charging what three people would charge."

As more and more clients opt to improve their residences instead of selling in the current market, Guyton's company—which has five full-time employees—is also doing more remodeling work. Its remodeling budgets have ranged from $100,000 to $300,000, although some projects, such as outdoor entertaining spaces, can be less.

"We work from the inside out to make a house that flows, a house that lives. There's room for furniture," she says. "Then we wrap an exterior on it that's really attractive, well-scaled and fits the lot. We don't start with 'what should this house look like from the outside?' What I've been able to do is take away the wasted space, which is thrilling because it's bugged me all my life," Guyton explains. "We design functioning, livable, energized homes. Every room has activity."

LEFT IMAGE: CHRIS LITTLE; RIGHT IMAGE: LOUFREEMANPHOTOGRAPHY.COM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WRITTEN BY
KATE ABNEY

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For the latest events around town, visit AtlantaHomesMag.com

Pascal Bouterin, Huff Harrington Fine Art

GALLERY SHOWS

■ "Bastille Day" at ***Huff Harrington Fine Art*** was a runaway success in its first installment last year, and returns victoriously this July to celebrate the gallery's troupe of talented French artists, including up-and-coming abstractionist Pascal Bouterin. Many of the featured artists, such as Georges Nasri, Andree Thobaty, Lylian Coiffard and Christian Nepo, were selected personally by gallery co-owner Ann Huff during her stays in Provence. With a mix of abstract, representational and Impressionist paintings in oil, watercolor and mixed media, the exhibition brings the spirit of France's Fête Nationale to Atlanta for the final two weeks of the month. *7/14-7/28. (404) 257-0511; huffharrington.com*

■ A two-woman show by New Orleans artist Teresa Cole and Atlantan Caroline Smith—both with ties to the art programs at Tulane University—opens this month at ***Whitespace***. Cole's series of prints examines the uses of pattern, repetition and space optics (with a nod to their psychologically seductive qualities), while Smith's large organic pieces take on twisting and grotesque forms, with references to horns, sinews and gargoyles. *7/10-8/15. (404) 688-1892; whitespace814.com*

■ On view this month at ***Jackson Fine Art***, following a six-day exhibition at Lehmann Maupin Gallery in New York, is the first limited-edition photography portfolio presented to the public by the Elton John AIDS Foundation. Featuring works by contemporary artists such as Sally Mann, Richard Misrach, Shirin Neshat and Damien Hirst, the show will raise proceeds to support HIV prevention programs, dispel AIDS-related discrimination and stigma, and support AIDS care facilities. Each of the 40 exclusive boxed portfolios will feature 10 images—one from each of the participating photographers. *Through 8/22. (404) 233-3739; jacksonfineart.com*

■ ***Bennett Street Gallery*** welcomes a new show featuring several of its top artists, including gallery owner Susie Pryor. "Calming Creatures: Paintings of Animals" takes an abstract look at animals the artists know and love, from household pets to farm standards. *Through 8/3. (404) 352-8775; bennettstgallery.com*

■ A new show at ***Lagerquist Gallery*** showcases multimedia works, paintings, sculptures and installations by Georgia artist Curtis Ames. Working in layers, Ames employs such methods as wiping, scratching, etching and sanding as he builds up the canvases to their visual and textural ideals. His works are recognizable for their simplified imagery, youthful energy and complex analysis of human identity. *7/2, 6-9 p.m. (404) 261-8273; lagerquistgallery.net*

■ "Abstractions," which comprises the work of painters Jean Glenn, Martin Carbajal and Whitney Wood, opens this month at ***Tew Galleries***, demonstrating how three abstract viewpoints can express strikingly different styles. Glenn's paintings—intricate, graphic and modern—exhibit strong color and lots of layers while Carbajal's pieces—with an inky, smokey atmosphere—reference maps or topographical renderings. Wood's fluid and dimensional large-scale abstractions suggest surrealistic, amorphous forms that twist and turn into mesmerizing compositions. *Through 8/20. (404) 869-0511; tewgalleries.com*

■ An exhibition by Whitfield Lovell, "Mercy, Patience and Destiny: The Women of Whitfield Lovell's Tableaux," arrives at the ***ACA Gallery*** of SCAD Atlanta in conjunction with the National Black Arts Festival. Lovell's works, drawn on found wallboard and combined with artifacts to create complex assemblages, offer insights into the early 20th-century experience of African American women, examining domestic and civil life as well as their roles in propelling the American Civil Rights movement. *7/9-8/23. (404) 815-2931; acagallery.org; scadexhibitions.com*

■ Featuring artists Zuzka Vaclavik, Meta Gary, Whitney Stansell, Kristina Bailey and Will Kay, ***Emily Amy Gallery***'s "Buy Local" show celebrates Atlanta's up-and-comers. Colorful, modern and perfect for summer, the

works offer visitors such diversity as Gary's graphic and illustrative sketches, Bailey's abstract oils and Vaclavik's innovative mixed media works, which incorporate elements such as watercolor and graffiti, resulting in softness with a hard edge. *Through 8/26. (404) 877-5626; emilyamygallery.com*

MUSEUMS

■ Several shows continue their runs at the ***High Museum of Art*** this month. Claude Monet's "Waterlilies" will be on view through the end of summer, showcasing some of the artist's most iconic paintings. Twenty large-scale photographs by Richard Misrach, titled "On the Beach," will also be on display, as will 26 paintings, eight architectural models and a dinnerware set by renowned architect Anthony Ames. *Through 8/23.* Also on view is an exhibit of five decades of printwork by leading African American art historian and lauded printmaker David C. Driskell. *Through 8/2.* In a masterful finish, "Louvre Atlanta: The Louvre and the Masterpiece" will conclude on 9/13. *(404) 733-4444; high.org*

■ Now on view at Georgia Tech's ***Robert C. Williams Paper Museum***, "The South in Black and White: The Works of James E. Routh Jr." presents drawings and images gathered by the artist during his travels through the South during the Great Depression. An Atlanta native, Routh graduated from Oglethorpe College and went on to study at the Art Students League in New York before taking the Rosenwald fellowship to observe daily life in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas and Louisiana. The exhibit features prints and paintings he produced from his original sketches. *Through 10/2. (404) 894-6663; ipst.gatech.edu/amp*

■ Ongoing at the ***Museum of Design Atlanta***, "The Graphic Imperative: International Posters for Peace, Social Justice and Environment" takes a stirring look at the social changes of the 20th century with more than 100 of the most iconic posters from the last four decades. Rife with sociopolitical commentary and emotional energy, each poster examines themes such as irony, humor, metaphor, dissent, racism, sexism, hope and human rights. *Through 8/15. (404) 979-6455; museumofdesign.org*

■ At Emory's ***Michael C. Carlos Museum***, "Wonderful Things: The Harry Burton Photographs and the Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun" showcases 50 photographs taken at the discovery of the tomb of the teen pharaoh in 1922. The exhibit documents such events as the opening of the tomb at the Valley of the Kings, the unveiling of artifacts, the entry to the burial chamber as well as photos of the shrines, coffins and embellishments to the king's mummy. *Through 7/26. (404) 727-4282; carlos.emory.edu*

■ Described as an improbable love letter to Ellsworth Kelly, Jennie C. Jones's "Red, Bird, Blue" pays tribute to Kelly's studies of birds and their colors in a new exhibit at the ***Atlanta Contemporary Art Center***, presenting dimensional paintings, works on paper and design objects in the modern spirit of his color field style. In the nearby Round Gallery, Charles Huntley Nelson's "Alphaville" continues in a Dick Tracy-like rendition of the infamous science fiction/gangster film by Jean-Luc Godard, while "Cavepainting," an exhibition by artists Alexi Brown-Schmidt and Rose Marcus, is on view in Gallery Four. *Through 8/16. (404) 688-2500; thecontemporary.org*

EVENTS

■ Adding even more intrigue to its exhibition of sculptures by British artist Sir Henry Moore, the ***Atlanta Botanical Garden*** welcomes the arrival of a number of preliminary sketches of Moore's sculptures. Curated by Fay Gold, they will be showcased in the Fuqua Orchid Center Gallery through the remainder of the exhibit's run. *Through 10/31. (404) 876-5859; atlantabotanicalgarden.org*

■ CLAUDE MONET, HIGH MUSEUM OF ART

Claude Monet (French, 1840-1926), 666.1959.a-c, accessioned object. "Reflections of Clouds on the Water-Lily Pond," c. 1920. Oil on canvas, three panels, each 6' 6 ¾" x 13' 11 ¼"; overall 6' 6 ¾" x 41' 10 ⅜". Mrs. Simon Guggenheim Fund, The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Image (c) MoMA, NY

'A NIGHT OF DESIGN'

AH&L teams up with Artefacto to honor Atlanta's rising tastemakers with a spectacular soirée and exclusive tour of the 39th annual Decorators' Show House & Gardens

The 2009 Decorators' Show House & Gardens, located at the new St. Regis Atlanta Hotel & Residences and Diamond-sponsored by *Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles*, was a huge success raising philanthropic funds for the Atlanta Symphony Associates. Featuring designs by 27 of the city's best designers and spanning three luxury units in three distinctive versions of Atlanta style—contemporary, traditional and transitional—the showcase offered something for every taste. And *AH&L*'s exclusive tour, held April 23, granted a private look at the spaces for some of Atlanta's most prized guests and design luminaries. Afterward, everyone gathered at Buckhead's Artefacto showroom to commemorate *AH&L*'s 2009 10 under 40 honorees, Jody Fausett, Joe Remling, Dan Maas, Mark Williams, Jiha Moon, Bulent Baydar, Jonathan Lacrosse, Heidi Pierce, Marie-Laure Coste Dujols and Thibaut Devillard, who are making names for themselves as the talented 10 to watch in local design. Both events converged as one fabulous fête that drew nearly 500 guests throughout the evening, who nibbled hors d'oeuvres from A Legendary Event and sipped our signature cocktail, a white cosmopolitan made with Swan's Neck vodka. Adding even more excitement to the occasion, the Artefacto Style House, situated on the showroom's second floor, dazzled guests who surveyed the 12 spaces created by Atlanta's leading designers using Artefacto furnishings and accessories.

Photos by Nano Diaz

Top photo, from left: Leah Meyer, Artifacto showroom manager, Amy Musarra, Showroom Manager, Artefacto, Teon Musarra, Mario de Sedas, Kelly Burgess, Erica Garcia and Van Aran; Catering by A Legendary Event; *AH&L* Publisher Gina Christman and Suze Surdyk Jones; Molly Portis and Rick McCulloch; *AH&L*'s Brad Hanner and Janice Fountain of Glyn Weakley Ltd.; the staff of A Legendary Event.

Top photo, from left: *AH&L*'s Miriam Wagner-Griffin and Dan Griffin; guests gathering in the Artefacto showroom; *AH&L*'s Clinton Smith and Elizabeth Spiegel; Steve Wasserman and Suzy Wasserman, President, Atlanta Symphony Associates; Linda Homyak, Anne Marsden and Beverly Seckinger; Gail Spinlocke and *AH&L* Editorial Director Clinton Smith; the Artefacto showroom; Reginald Walker, Evelyn Mims and *AH&L*'s Clinton Smith; Barbara Howard and Jeffrey Grove; Brenda Callahan; Keith Robinson and Niki Papadopoulos; Robert Norris, Lyndy Jamison and *AH&L*'s Clinton Smith.

"The Best Lawn Party in Georgia"

THE 2009 ATLANTA STEEPLECHASE

ST. REGIS ATLANTA AND *AH&L* TEAM UP TO HOST A SPECTACULAR CHAIRMAN'S TENT PARTY

The 44th running of the Atlanta Steeplechase was the primary attraction, of course, but who can top a perfect day weatherwise, mingling with a cadre of VIP guests, savoring Champagne and custom cocktails alongside an epicurean extravaganza presented by Avenue Catering Concepts? Amid hundreds of tailgating parties and corporate tent parties, The Chairman's Tent, hosted by *Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles* and St. Regis Atlanta, provided perhaps the most elegant and exclusive venue for spectators. The 2009 Atlanta Steeplechase benefitted Starlight Children's Foundation and The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

Top photo, from left: Dawn Truemper of St. Regis Atlanta with Hal Barry, Chairman, Steeplechase Board of Stewards; Chairman's Tent tablescape, featuring gifts from Ralph Lauren and menus from Avenue Catering Concepts; Hervé Pennequin, Sommelier, and Megan Gray, Food & Beverage Director of The St. Regis Atlanta poured Champagne for guests. Below, from left: Conn Jackson of The Conn Jackson Show" with India Watson, Marketing and Sales Director for The Atlanta Steeplechase; Craig Ford, Megan Ford, Linda White and Craig White; Jeffrey Grove; The Famous St. Regis Bloody Marys; Scott Smith and Mary Reynolds with Mark Harris; Elizabeth Gomez and Corey Hitt from Ralph Lauren.

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2009 SCAD-ATLANTA SCHOLARSHIP GALA

THE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER CELEBRATES THE INSTITUTION'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

The 2009 SCAD-Atlanta Scholarship Gala, held April 16 at the SCAD-Atlanta campus at 1600 Peachtree Street, commemorated 30 years of the institution's innovative arts instruction at its Savannah, Atlanta and Lacoste, France, campuses. As the school's biggest fundraiser of the year, the gala raised scholarship funds for promising new talents. A number of prized guests and regional artists were in attendance, who enjoyed presentations and exhibitions of the latest in art and design techniques and trends, as well as live music, live and silent auctions, cocktails and cuisine. VIP guests arrived an hour early for a special collectors' preview reception with spotlighted artists. And adding even more glitz to the evening, celebrated Atlanta-born, NYC-based interior designer Miles Redd—who we recently caught up with for an exclusive interview at AtlantaHomesMag.com—served as this year's honorary chair.

Top photo, from left: Alston Correll, Paula Wallace, Kitty Correll (co-chair), Tenley Gilstrap; John Lineweaver, Hildi Santo-Tomas, Paula Wallace; Lela Rose and Paula Wallace; Paula Wallace and SCAD-Atlanta student volunteers; Miles Redd and Paula Wallace;

Great Starts; Bright Futures

THE DOWN-HOME DERBY

A BENEFIT FOR THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, HELD AT SHANNONDALE FARM, MILTON, GEORGIA

Guests put aside the black tie attire, opting for "Denim Chic" at The Down Home Party, where they enjoyed the Kentucky Derby, Bluegrass music by Drivetrain and bistro cuisine by Jerry Dilts & Associates. The party, held at Shannondale Farm in Milton, raised scholarship funds for the Child Development Association, which has enabled children of low-income, working families to make a great start toward a bright future for 40 years.

Photos by Barrett Wolfe

Top photo, clockwise from left: Katie Geddes and Brenna Heflin; Lee Chadwick; Ann Clements; Mike Wysong with Lisa and Bob Ashcom; Megan Hayes and John Babcock; John McLaughlin of the North Metro Miracle League with Megan Hayes.

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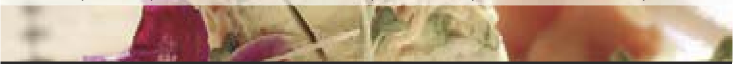

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Linda Conrad, Fireside Antiques LLC
Dianne Estes, D. Estes Antiques
Betsy Graziano, BTI Designs, Knoxville, TN
Debra Green, English Green Interiors
Nita Hall, The Hall Closet
Francie Hargrove, Francie Hargrove Interior Design
Carol Hartley/Judy Henson, C. J. Brownhouse
Lauren Hawkins, Lauren and Company, Palm Beach, FL
Sally Johannessen, Dovetail Antiques
Marjorie Johnston/Wendy Barze, Marjorie Johnston and Company
Birmingham, AL
Traci Kearns, Alchemy Designs Asheville, NC
Lance Liccardi, Lance Liccardi at Madison Park
Susan Loda, Main Street Antiques
John Mayberry, John Mayberry Interior Design, Thomasville, GA
John McCarley/Kate McCarley, McCarley Horticulture, Inc.
Lynn Monday, Monday's House of Design
Kris Nelson, White Rabbit Botanicals
Jillian Pritchard Cooke/Katie Cobb, DES-SYN Interior Design
Ann Sherrill, Rusticks
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Carole Weaks, C. Weaks Interiors, Inc.

Don't miss the presentations on eco-friendly living by Anne Quatrano, Jillian Pritchard Cooke and Laura Turner Seydel. Visit the The Cashiers Green Market sponsored by The Cashiers Merchants and putt for "green"

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 828.743.7710..... OR VISIT CASHIERSHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

Comfortably situated on Florida shorelines, this month's vacation homes offer Atlantans peaceful sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Atlanta designer ***BILL MUSSO*** and Bryan Cooke added cohesive calm to their Alys Beach residence, discarding distractions to conserve the already beautiful ocean view. Using a cool color palette of blues and greens with white, interior designer ***LIZ WILLIAMS*** created such a relaxing Amelia Island getaway for her clients, Carol and Clay Moore, that the couple now spends more time there than in Atlanta. The design, composed of discreet finds from antiques shops and flea markets, helps achieve Carol's ultimate goal—simplicity. And isn't that what summer should be about?

Bill Musso and Bryan Cooke's Alys Beach, Florida, home features exotic palms transplanted from the Canary Islands, which surround a carpet of creeping grasses growing amongst fragments of Cuban stone.

Ideal Escape

TWO ATLANTANS DESIGN THEIR DREAM VACATION HOME ALONG THE CRYSTAL WATERS OF FLORIDA'S GULF COAST

Written by **Kate Abney** Photographed by **Erica George Dines** Produced by **Clinton Smith**

The living room is the couple's favorite place to unwind, day or night. The sea breezes that whisk through the French doors, Musso says, make it hard to leave. "We chose a very sheer, open-weave Fabricut material for the curtains, and as soon as you open the doors, they billow. It's very beautiful; like something out of a movie." *above right* The living room is a perfect balance of casual and formal, traditional and modern—with just a touch of glam. "I've always done things with a bit of Hollywood glamour," Musso says. "Even if things are casual, I still like them to be elegant, too." The accent of silvery wallpaper above the mantel is what makes this room sing; it provides a chic backdrop for the couple's most prized art piece, a canvas by Provincetown artist Anne Packard.

In community planning, as much as interior design, the best results are born out of pure vision—collected from various influences over time, woven from a thread of collective memory and cultural meaning. Each fragment that shapes the individual experience helps tell a story, too.

That's the feeling that imbues Bill Musso and Bryan Cooke's Alys Beach home—and the pieces they've put in it. "For years, it's like we were buying things for a house we didn't have," says Musso, an Atlanta designer. "But it all kind of worked out in the end. It's like it was meant to be."

For Musso and Cooke, like many of the homeowners who have stakes here, Alys Beach is precisely the place they were dreaming of. One of the newest Traditional Neighborhood Developments (TND), the planned Gulf Coast community is quickly becoming the ultimate getaway for discriminating Atlantans. A sanctuary of calm from the life chaotic, it's filled with Caribbean-influenced homes that reflect a fusion of architectural styles ranging from Moroccan to West Indian—all executed with elegance and simplicity.

It was while driving down Highway 30A in 2007—Musso's first trip to the Florida panhandle—that he and Cooke stumbled upon the town's stark white facades. Having lived and worked in locales ranging from New

above The kitchen was unfinished when Musso and Cooke purchased this home, giving him free reign to design the cooking space of his dreams. Using a local Florida cabinetmaker, he had walnut cabinetry constructed in a clean, streamlined style. "All of the wood is cut from the same sheet, so the grain extends linearly across the whole room," says Musso. "It's just a really simple, functional look—light, airy and great to cook in. I actually love it more than my kitchen at home." *right* In a nod to the sustainable building practices of Alys Beach, Musso used many eco-friendly wall coverings and fabrics—like the Beacon Hill stripe featured on the dining chairs. "The developer is really passionate about what kind of footprint they leave behind," he explains. "They've created a lot of green space within the property that they didn't have to."

York to London, and traveled frequently both stateside and abroad, the two knew a gem when they saw one.

"Everything the developers have done is with so much thought; the level of detail here is amazing," Musso explains.

The four-bedroom spec home they purchased—just a two-minute walk from the shore—was the first residential property built in Alys Beach. But, while it was an excellent rendition of the Alys vision, the designer admits that "it was a little vanilla." His solution: to play up the simple architecture by adding built-ins, wallpaper and a cook's-quality kitchen fashioned from streamlined, locally sourced walnut cabinetry.

Throughout, the interiors reflect the serenity of this dreamlike destination. A mix of fresh blues, greens and neutrals with just a hint of glitz—in the form of blown glass, mother of pearl and hand-painted floral fabrics—underscore a vision fully realized. The result boasts enough beachy style to bring reprieve and just enough urban sophistication to make the Atlantans feel right at home. "I wanted it to flow," Musso says. "I wanted to be able to walk in the front door and walk out again and feel at peace."

To keep the vibe calm, accents were chosen with careful consideration. Many, in fact, had been stowed away for years, awaiting proper placement. "We had these old lanterns for about three years, but didn't know where to put them," says Musso of the antique sconces now casting a glow in the summer kitchen. The work on canvas over the living room mantel, by Provincetown artist Anne Packard, is

above Global influences have greatly informed the designs of Bill Musso (left), who enjoys mixing high and low. Case in point: An inexpensive, streamlined lounger and chairs from Restoration Hardware, corralled in the courtyard, provide shade on hot summer days and give the couple's cocker spaniel, Aaron, a regal spot for repose. The harlequin pattern of the Dominican shellstone was original to the house. *opposite* The summer kitchen, complete with an outdoor grill and ample seating, is filled with friends and family throughout the day.

probably Musso's favorite art piece—and not only because he purchased it at a very good price through an Atlanta dealer. Just as artfully, a collection of 14 photographs by Dutch artist Ron Van Dongen, picked up years ago at Jackson Fine Art, add graphic interest and individuality to the formal dining area while a prized pair of Mid-Century Klismos chairs gets a new lease on life with fresh fabric.

Musso's favorite spaces, however, are the ones that make the most of the outdoors' breathtaking beauty—like the summer kitchen and gracious living room, complete with five sets of French doors that open wide, letting in crisp ocean breezes and showcasing the view. It's an invigorating feeling, which is why the designer banished all distractions—like a TV—from the living space. "I didn't want the rooms to be so overly done that you lost the sight of the views," he says. "Why compete with them?" **See Resources, back of book.**

"I didn't want
the rooms to be
so OVERLY DONE
that you lost the
sight of the views.
WHY COMPETE
with them?"

left In this guest bedroom, cheery Bauhaus-style arc lamps and a wall of playful convex mirrors make it a favorite haunt for children. Still, "the room is not so juvenile that adults can't stay here," adds Musso. The designer chose fresh shades of green to complement the watery hue of the walls, as captured beautifully in the Victoria Hagan fabric he used for the shams and window treatments. *above* This guest bath was given a vibrant treatment with spring green wallpaper from Schumacher, adding visual interest to the otherwise understated space.

"I WANTED it to FLOW," Musso says. "I wanted to be able to WALK IN the front door and WALK OUT AGAIN and feel at PEACE."

opposite Because windows and doors crowded the spaces where a bed would have typically been placed, the design for the master bedroom began as a challenge. But Musso soon realized that the multiple windows were a blessing in disguise. After setting the bed between two of them, he took cues from the sun-drenched space and reflected it in colorful fabrics—a hand-painted Rubelli floral and a Liberty stripe. Wood bead trim on throw pillows complete the look with "tribal, almost West Indian" accents.

Because Musso and Cooke were two of the first homeowners in Alys Beach, they've seen many waves of change in the coastal community. "It's a great time to be here," says Musso. "Every time we go, we see something new." Because the two frequently make the trek to Alys Beach at the end of a long work day, they often don't arrive until after 10 p.m. Still, the living room frames a beautiful view, no matter what the hour may be. "I actually think the house looks prettier at night," says Musso. "That's my favorite time of day to be there, because when the moon is full and reflecting off the water, it's really magical."

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

Designer Liz Williams thought a pair of shutters would make the columns between the living and dining rooms seem less formal. As luck would have it, homeowner Carol Moore stumbled upon the perfect pair at a flea market—not only the right size, but even the ideal shade of soothing blue.

shore THING

Written by Meg Ratka Sparwath Photographed by Erica George Dines Produced by Rachel Cardina

AN ATLANTA COUPLE WORKS WITH DESIGNER LIZ WILLIAMS TO CREATE A PEACEFUL AMELIA ISLAND RETREAT

UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE

left **Casually slipcovered seating gathers around a one-of-a-kind coffee table in the living room. The unique piece, which Williams found at South of Market, is well suited to the kind of heavy-duty use that invariably comes with beach house living.** *above* **A kitchen pass-through provides a place to grab a snack or quick meal. Even nearby artwork takes a laid-back approach; a pair of old frames from 14th Street Antiques displays rocks collected by the owners.**

Carol and Clay Moore have had a long-time love affair with Florida's Amelia Island. For them, it's more than a convenient beach getaway; they're entranced by the change of seasons and the quaint town of Fernandina, not to mention the beautiful coastline and big waves (Clay's a body surfer). Over the years, the Moores found themselves spending an increasing amount of time on the island. So, once their children were grown and gone, they downsized in Atlanta and upsized at the beach, purchasing a three-bedroom condominium there.

The condo was fully furnished when they bought it, but the orange-tinted wood floors, dark walls and pink-and-turquoise scheme didn't exactly fit the new owners' idea of a beach retreat. Plus, the décor was quite formal, right down to the heavy silk draperies. "We started over from scratch and intentionally kept accessories to a minimum," Carol explains. "I wanted simple—very, very simple."

To help with the makeover, Carol looked to interior designer Liz Williams, whom the Moores have collaborated with in the past on four different homes in Atlanta and Amelia Island.

FRESH & COOL

oppposite In the dining room, wicker chairs from Mainly Baskets have an open weave that keeps the look light and airy. At the same time, their dark chocolate hue, repeated on the custom drum shade above, lends dramatic impact. *above* The colors of beach glass are prevalent throughout this home. *above right* These homeowners can kick back and enjoy breathtaking scenery from the comfort of their own balcony. *right* This sunny spot, made even more so by a pair of yellow-and-white striped chairs designed by Bobby McAlpine for Lee, provides a cozy, comfy breakfast area.

Nr
0830

BE MY GUEST

opposite Because the Moores' grandchildren visit frequently, multiple guest rooms are a must. This one, outfitted with twin beds, is stunning thanks in part to its symmetry and simplicity. *above* A pine hutch from the Moores' house in Atlanta easily made the transition to this guest room, where it displays a few pieces of treasured Majolica and part of Carol's ironstone collection. *above right* Lime green and crisp white team up in this retreat to create a refreshing feeling—from the bedding to the window treatment and right on up to the ceiling.

"We both knew it was time to go with a color palette that was different from the buttery-beige colors I've used in the past," says Carol.

The main goal was to create an instantly relaxing space that reflected the natural serenity of the ocean. As it turned out, a pillow fabric was the unexpected source of inspiration; its soothing blues and greens proved the perfect complement for the freshly painted whitish-gray walls.

In search of a certain few pieces for the new place, Carol's passion for shopping had her scouring shops and flea markets. "Nine times out of 10 Liz would find a place for whatever I found," says the homeowner. "She is amazing; everything came together perfectly."

That said, Carol also believes Lady Luck played a role in the decorating process. "Anytime we said 'we need this or that,' it seemed to show up. When we were looking for old farm tools, I happened to find some at a flea market. And the same thing happened when we were looking for shutters."

Looking at the finished product, it's no wonder the Moores now spend more time on the island than in Atlanta. "It is such a peaceful place. When you walk in you can't help but relax," notes Carol.

And isn't that the point? SEE RESOURCES, BACK OF BOOK.

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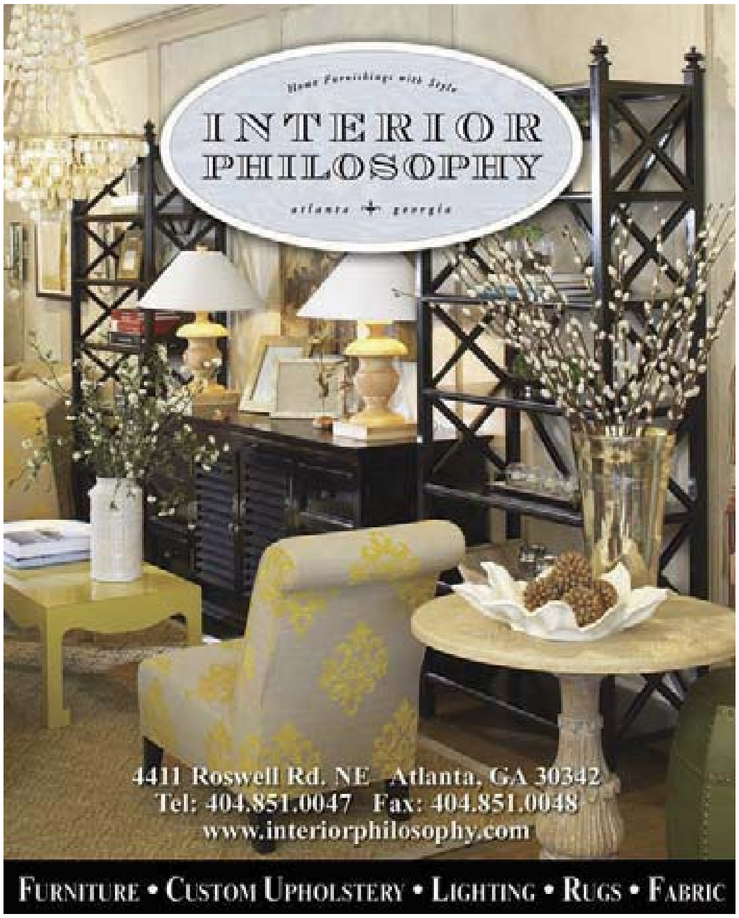
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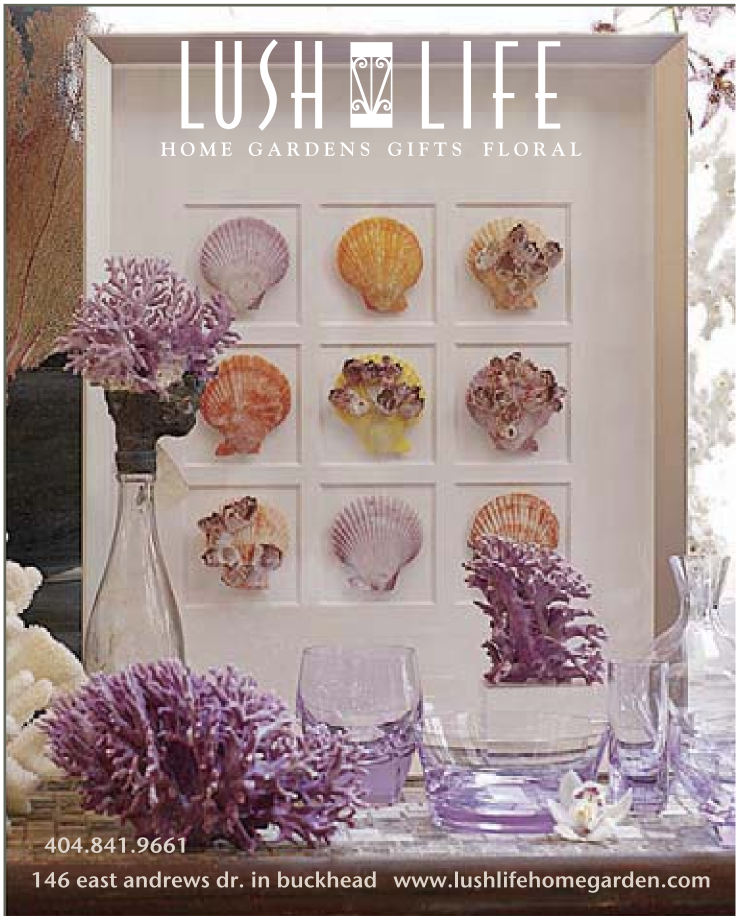
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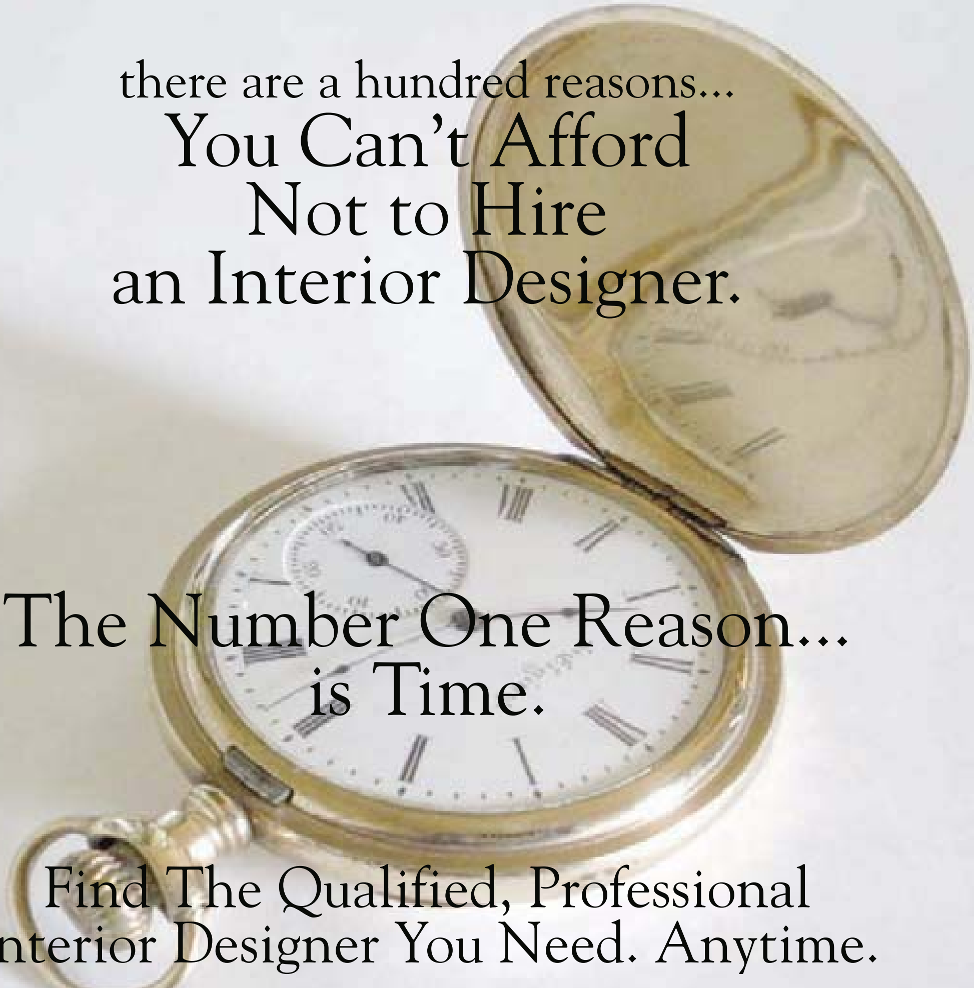

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(marcia)

WRITTEN BY
MARCIA SHERRILL

ILLUSTRATION BY
RITU BANSAL

Relax, already!

In the past, I've admitted my drug store predilection for tacky bath products. I simply can't pass up a display of loofahs or Mr. Bubbles. But I recently treated myself to an upgrade to Santa Maria Novella pomegranate bath salts, all the while developing a proclivity for Claus Porto, those brick-sized soap bars from Portugal. Given that I have been known to shampoo my hair with a bar of Irish Spring, all of this spa-like luxury is new to me. Also gone are the Glade scented diffusers and old Budweiser beach towels. Armed with Slatkin candles and Sferra bath sheets, I now feel like I'm bathing in luxury! Here's how local tastemakers relax.

MARY PRILLAMAN HOLLAND "Relaxing is all about candles for me! I really enjoy the Molton Brown collection, which is moderately priced and packaged very well. The Thai Vert candle with the matching shower gel is wonderful—and, not to mention, a beautiful shade of green. And, after a workout, the warming eucalyptus bath therapy can't be beat." —PRILLAMAN HOLLAND IS THE OWNER OF HOLLAND & COMPANY. HOLLANDANDCOMPANY.COM

HEATHER J. PAPER "My ritual for relaxation—in addition to a glass of wine, which is a 'must' for relaxation anytime—is picking up a needle and thread. Whether it's sewing a tablecloth that reflects my latest color craze or hand-embroidering a new pillow, I take great comfort in carrying on traditions my grandmother taught me." —PAPER IS A NOTED DESIGN AUTHOR; SHE IS ALSO THE INTERIM MANAGING EDITOR OF *AH&L*

ANNABELLE KLEINBERG "Relaxation for me is called s-l-e-e-p. And that means I have to pull a Tempurpedic pillow over my head so I don't have to listen to my mother. And her dog hogs my covers, so I have to build a fortress to keep her away, too!" —KLEINBERG IS THE DAUGHTER OF MARCIA SHERRILL, THIS COLUMN'S AUTHOR

BILL HUDGINS "I love to relax in a Japanese soaking tub with the sound and sight of a waterfall in the distance. The aroma of lavender in the spring and summer, and cedar and eucalyptus in colder months, makes for a rejuvenating bathing experience." —HUDGINS IS THE OWNER OF LUSH LIFE IN BUCKHEAD. LUSHLIFEHOMEGARDEN.COM

ALISON GOLDWATER "With two small girls, I feel like relaxation is almost a lost memory, but that is exactly why I renovated my master bath and turned it into a sanctuary. Every component is natural and gives me an Eastern feeling of serenity. I would have opted for a design that reminded me of my family home in Scottsdale, Arizona, but I'll save that for the next home and go for a desert-theme-in-Atlanta look. For now, I just need peace. I love candles and aromathrerapy in those 30 minutes when I am not being Mom and can be tranquil. If only I had a padlock." —GOLDWATER IS A LOCAL PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST

INSIDE STORY

When I first thought about relaxing rituals, my mind raced. Relax? Me? When was I ever relaxed? The more I thought about it, I do, in fact, have a ritual, and I need to get back to it immediately! You see, my computer has taken over my life. When I am not answering e-mail or checking my Web site, I'm blogging, kibitzing with my zillion friends on Facebook or twittering about a trip to Alabama. But the fear that I will be electrocuted by my laptop if I bring it into the tub with me is the only thing that gives me a few minutes of repose. With the hot water running, I grab a book and attack another three chapters of Balzac. With one of those comfy (but admittedly heinous) inflatable pillows, I stay water borne until my body looks like a prune. And when I realize that I no longer have the desire to twitter about it, that's relaxation, indeed!

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